

North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes of the ManCom meeting 39a

April 22nd 2021 at 6.30pm

(This meeting was conducted using Zoom)

Background: JGN and AJ had attended the NESMBA committee meeting (zoom) on April 15th at which it was decided to go forward with the planning of the 2021-22 Inter-County league as normal with no change to the playing format that we had suggested. North Yorkshire had been asked to confirm their position with regards to the number of teams as soon as possible.

Although the recent ManCom (April 6th) had concluded that such a decision would mean we would have to reduce our entry to 2 teams, the Chairman felt that further discussion was advisable before this important change was finally agreed. He had therefore called this additional meeting to give all ManCom a further opportunity to express their views. This meeting would be treated as an extension to ManCom 39.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All 8 ManCom members were in attendance: JGN, JN, PJ, RM, AJ, RH, FB, RG

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

ManCom 39 – April 6th 2021 are available on the website. These will be ratified at the next meeting and any matters arising not covered below will be discussed then.

MEMBERSHIP

RG had reviewed and updated the Job Statement for the Membership Secretary's post and this had been circulated prior to the meeting. JN requested an addition with regards to the handling of the PCF forms required for all Junior members. This was agreed and the updated version (V5) was endorsed unanimously.

A request from a Lancashire club (Mellor) had been received. They wanted to affiliate to the ESMBA via us in order to use the Sutton Winson insurance scheme. RG had asked them to approach Cheshire, West Yorkshire or Greater Manchester and/or also to contact Norris Fisher who provided SM Bowls insurance without the need for ESMBA affiliation.

COUNTY TEAMS

The Chairman gave each ManCom member in turn the opportunity to speak their mind regarding the decision taken at the last meeting to reduce to 2 teams.

The following points were raised.

1. Last season the pool of players available to the captains for selection was 91. The recent survey had shown that there were now only 69 expressing their availability for next season. Of these only 50 had indicated full availability.
2. Last season there were 24 matches and a total of 83 different players had been used. This year there would be 28 matches if we entered 3 teams. It would be exceedingly difficult to pick 3 teams of 20 especially if all 3 teams had matches on the same weekend.

3. The survey had produced the names of 3 new players. Were there other players yet to come forward and how many of those who had dropped out would return once the new season got under way?
4. A reduction to 2 teams may mean that some marginal players would probably not be selected. Concern was expressed that this would “alienate” such players.
5. Involving as many players as possible may make it more likely that candidates to fill vacant committee posts would come forward.
6. The NESMBA starring rules would probably mean that 12 players would be “locked in” to each of the A and B teams. This would effectively reduce the pool of available players further.
7. When the decision to leave the ICC had been taken, a canvas at that time showed players were in favour of retaining 3 teams to play in the NESMBA league. Should they not be asked again?
8. Several NESMBA counties had indicated that they would not be able to comply with “Safe Bowls” status if there were still social-distancing requirements in place. This could also affect our own ability to hold 2 games at home on the same date which would be required if we had 3 teams.

After all opinions had been expressed a vote was taken and by a majority of 4-3 it was agreed to carry on with 3 teams. The Chairman’s casting vote was not required. RG will inform the NESMBA of our decision.

GOV/ESMBA restrictions/guidelines

It was recognised that the future of the 2021-22 competition was fully dependent on either a complete relaxation of Government/ESMBA restrictions or complete compliance amongst all participating NESMBA counties of those required at the beginning of the season.

TEAM SELECTION & “STARRING”

The Chairman requested that our current Team Selection policy (see website) should be reviewed, and the question of which players should be “starred” should be debated. Both items to be on the agenda for discussion at the next ManCom (date tba).

The meeting concluded at 8.05 after an announcement from JGN that due to a change in personal circumstances he will be resigning as the ESMBA Umpires Director effective from their 2021 AGM (date tba).

RBG 24 April